

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5972

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJ: OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE - GALO PLAZA' S SPEECH

SUMMARY: GALO PLAZA SAID SYSTEM HAD DONE MUCH GOOD AND IF CONSTRUCTIVELY REFORMED COULD DO MUCH MORE. HE SAW CRISIS IN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN U. S. AND LATIN AMERICA AS AT ROOT OF MALAISE REGARDING THE OAS AND HOPED CONFERENCE WOULD BE POTENTIAL TURNING POINT IN U. S.- LATIN RELATIONS WHERE A CONSENSUS BASED ON CONVERGENT INTERESTS OUGHT TO BE RE- ESTABLISHED. END SUMMARY

1. GALO PLAZA PRAISED SYSTEM' S PAST PERFORMANCE AND POTENTIAL FOR THE FUTURE. HE CALLED FOR REFORM RATHER THAN RADICAL OVERHAUL. HE DESCRIBED THE MAJOR PROBLEM OF TODAY AS BEING THE " TURNING POINT" IN U. S.- LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS. HE CALLED UPON THE NATIONS TO DIAGNOSE PROPERLY ILLS AND RE- ESTABLISH CONSENSUS WITHIN THE INTER- AMERICAN SYSTEM. ABOVE ALL IT REQUIRES IDENTIFYING CONVERGENT INTERESTS WHILE IDENTIFYING THOSE THAT MAY-- AT LEAST TEMPORARILY-- SEPARATE US. IMAGES IN STRUCTURE ARE NOT AS IMPORTANT AS FINDING CONSENSUS ON BASIC QUESTION.

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2. IN ATTEMPTING TO ADJUST THE SYTEM TO A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD, " ISSUE OF DEVELOPMENT.... STANDS AT THE TOP OF THE SCALE OF PRIORITES." WHILE EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENT IS NOT NEW, IT HAS INTENSIFIED AND IS NOW OFTEN CONJOINED WITH THE EXPERIMENTATION OF LATIN COUNTRIES WITH NEW FORMS AND MODELS OF DEVELOPMENT SUITED TO PARTICULAR NEEDS. " PLURALITY OF IDEOLOGY IS NOT CONFINED TO POLITICAL ISSUES AND FORMS OF GOVERNMENT ALONE." CONCEPT IS BROAD AND MUST INCLUDE THE WAY IN WHICH SOCIETIES ORGANIZE TO BRING A BETTER LIFE TO THEIR PEOPLES.

3. PLAZA DID NOT MEAN TO DOWNGRADE IMPORTANCE OF INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM' S POLITICAL FUNCTIONS. IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, POLITICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES ARE NOT EASILY SEPARABLE. THE MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUES RELATE PRIMARILY TO ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL MATTERS.

4. SYSTEM SHOULD SEEK TO INCORPORATE THE ASSISTANCE OF NON- MEMBERS, DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. CIAP IS AN ORGAN ON WHICH THE SYSTEM COULD BUILD TOWARDS IMPROVING ITS DEVELOPMENTAL FUNCTIONS. A MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK ENHANCES COLLABORATION; THE WEAKER COUNTRIES CAN FACE THE STRONGER ON EQUAL TERMS: IT ASSURES AGAINST POLITICAL INTERFERENCE, PATERNALISM AND DEPENDENCY ; AND IS THE BEST GUARANTEE IN PREVENTING CONFLICT AMONG STATES.

5. HE STRESSED NEED FOR COHESION OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN PROMOTING THEIR INTERESTS AS CONTRIBUTORY TOWARDS A MORE BALANCED RELATIONSHIP. IN THIS REGARD HE CITED CECLA AS " A MOST CONSTRUCTIVE FACTOR." HE ALSO CALLED FOR RICHER LATIN NATIONS TO PROGRESSIVELY ASSUME ROLE OF DONORS TO THE LESS DEVELOPED.

6. PLAZA CONCLUDED BY STRESSING U. S. - LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE' S WORK. " IN THE ABSENCE OF A NEW UNDERSTANDING ON A POLICY BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE U. S. NO FUNDAMENTAL POSITIVE CHANGE CAN TAKE PLACE IN THE INTER- AMERICAN SYSTEM." HE ADDED THAT THE DIALOGUE MUST BE FREE OF

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CONFRONTATION IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE COMMUNITY OF AMERICAN NATIONS." BELCHER

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